

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1 and 5-9 are now pending.

A substitute Abstract of the Disclosure has been provided, in response to the requirement set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Further, a Substitute Specification is included to answer the Examiner's objection on the same page.

The Applicants request the Examiner to revisit the matter of the certified copy of the foreign priority document, mentioned on page 2 of the Office Action. As indicated on the attached copy of the date-stamped mailroom receipt from February 26, 2002, the certified copy has indeed been filed.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. §101, for allegedly failing to set forth an invention falling within one of the statutory categories, with the required definiteness. Claim 9 has been amended to set forth explicitly the method which was intended for inclusion by reference to claim 1, in claim 9 as originally filed.

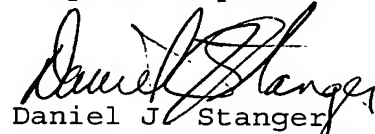
Claims 1 and 5 have also been amended, without narrowing their scope, to remedy possible informalities.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gee, et al., US 3,904,293 (Gee). Without

admitting to the propriety of the rejection, claims 2-4 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering moot the rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Stanger", is written over the typed name.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Light having polarization is irradiated onto an article, and then quality of the article is diagnosed using a pre-input correlation function between quality of the article and a variation of polarization of the light reflected from the article. Further, the quality of the article is diagnosed by measuring a reflection absorbance difference or a reflection absorbance ratio of light from the article between two wavelengths, and by measuring a depolarization degree of polarized light of the reflected light from the surface of the article. The quality of the article can be non-destructively diagnosed using a simple system. Further, defects can be identified on factor-by-factor basis.